



# FALSE ALARM PREVENTION



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2011

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For more false alarm  
prevention tips, visit:  
[www.mesaaz.gov/police/  
Communications/AlarmUnit.aspx](http://www.mesaaz.gov/police/Communications/AlarmUnit.aspx)

Alarm systems are designed to protect lives and property if they are installed, used, and maintained properly. When the alarm systems are not properly used or maintained, the number of calls for police dispatches increases. As police dispatches increase, the cost in taxpayer dollars also increases.

**Working with the  
citizens of Mesa  
to increase the  
effectiveness of  
their alarm  
systems.**

## MONSOON STORMS VS. SECURITY SYSTEMS

During the monsoon, or summer thunderstorm season, Arizona experiences more severe weather than many other states. On rare occasion, a severe storm may spawn a tornado. More often, high winds, dust and severe downpours resulting in flash floods are common monsoon occurrences.

The monsoon is caused by a combination of heat and moisture. Technically, Arizona is said to be in "monsoon" when we have had more than three consecutive days of dew points above 55 degrees. In order to avoid the guesswork, beginning in 2008 June 15 is the first day of monsoon, and September 30 is the last day.

A monsoon can effect your security system in a variety of ways causing false alarm indications, some of which



may require the City of Mesa to impose a false alarm assessment.

As a security system owner, there are some key steps you can take to prevent monsoon related alarm activations. These steps will

help prevent false alarms and save you money in assessment fees.

Burglary alarm users will be assessed \$50.00 for the first false alarm and the fee increases by \$50.00 for each subsequent false alarm within the permit year.

Some monsoon related false alarm assessments may be waived such as; electrical storms (verified with electric company), motion or glass break sensors relocated (proof required), loose door/window sensors repaired (proof required) and transformer outages (also verified with electric company).

## MONSOON FALSE ALARM PREVENTION

The most common monsoon or storm related issue is a low battery. If the battery in your system panel is old, it may not fully sustain your security system during a brief power outage. When the power supply fails, most systems will alert you through the keypad and a signal is also sent to the alarm company. When your back up battery fails, low battery signal

is sent to the alarm monitoring company. Lastly, when all power fails, sensors go into default and sends a false alarm signal. Panel batteries should be changed every 2 years to operate your system reliably during a power outage.

Other storm related issues causing false alarms are loose sensors on doors and windows. When heavy wind

blows during a storm, doors and windows shake and may cause a false alarm indication.

Have your alarm company conduct a physical inspection of your security system prior to the monsoon season. By taking proactive steps now, you can avoid seasonal storm related false alarm assessment fees!